

MARIN COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SOUTHERN MARIN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ACTION MINUTES AUGUST 18, 2003

Members Present: Raphael Durr, Alice Fredericks, Anne Jeffrey, David Parisi, Steve Price, Dick Swanson, and Christopher Wand

Members Absent: Paul Albritton, Amy Belser, Grace Livingston, Annette Rose, Bruce Sams, Steve Thompson, and Richard Rubin

Staff Present: Dean Powell, Marin County Department of Public Works; and Bonnie Nelson, Congestion Management Agency Consultant

Others: Wayne Bush, Public Works Director, Mill Valley; Pat Echols, Public Works Director, Tiburon; Craig Tackabery, Assistant Director, Marin County Department of Public Works; Jack Baker, Marin County Department of Public Works; John Leonard; Charles McGlashan; Karen Nygren; Walter Strakosch; and Kett Zegart

The meeting was convened at 4:46 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2003

Due to the lack of a quorum, approval of the July 21, 2003 action minutes was continued to the September meeting agenda.

3. PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL TRANSIT ELEMENT AND REVIEW OF GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION OF THE CMA/BOS JOINT COMMITTEE

Staff presented information on the guidelines and general direction of the CMA/BOS Joint Committee for the Local Transit element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. On behalf of the Joint Committee, staff was seeking community input on: (1) the preliminary allocation of 40% of the sales tax revenues towards the Local Transit element; and (2) a sense of local transit needs in the community that should be given high priority in a new system.

Committee discussion and public comment topics included: (1) the percentage of commute trips over the Golden Gate Bridge from Sonoma served by transit; (2) paratransit and Americans with Disabilities Act complementary service; (3) funding sources and amounts for paratransit service; (4) whether Whistlestop Wheels could provide non-paratransit services, such as local shuttles; (5) whether accessible taxis could be considered a substitute for legally mandated paratransit services; (6) the average hourly cost to operate a Golden Gate Transit basic service bus and what factors affect cost; (7) whether the Marin County Transit District could consider contracting with other bus service providers, instead of Golden Gate Transit, for basic and local services; (8) why the Golden Gate Transit financial crisis is a long-term problem and not a short-term problem; (9) impacts of the Golden Gate Transit Scenario E service reductions to lower-income communities, such as Marin City; (10) whether any of the suggested sales tax transit funding scenarios would restore Scenario E service levels to current service frequencies; (11) a comparison of the existing ridership level with the projected ridership levels for the Scenario E service and other suggested sales tax transit funding scenarios; (12) the anticipated traffic impacts resulting from the Scenario E service reductions; (13) whether alternative fuel vehicles could be considered; (14) the opportunity to combine sales tax revenues with funds being obtained for alternative transportation access programs being developed for nearby parklands; (15) the possibility of using Local Return funds to enhance transit programs and projects, such as local shuttles, as well as the possibility of increasing the 40% allocation suggested by the Joint Committee for Local Transit; and (16) the need to develop a specific and simple expenditure plan to obtain voter approval. (Information on most of these topics can be found in the "Frequently Asked Questions #3" handout in the September staff report packet.)

Sense of the Committee – The committee arrived at a general consensus on the following:

- The committee will provide input on the preliminary allocation range for the Local Transit element after reviewing all four draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan elements.
- Local transit needs identified included:
 - Small, local shuttles that cross the Highway 101 corridor and connect communities, particularly Tiburon and Strawberry to Mill Valley
 - Connections to Tiburon and Sausalito ferry services
 - Coordination and connection of the Sausalito “Sally” and Mill Valley “Millie” local shuttle services
 - Smaller shuttles that can travel on narrower, hilly roads in the community and connect people to all Golden Gate Transit services
- Other consensus feedback included:
 - Local Transit programs and projects of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan should be designed to manage congestion and increase mobility for the community.

4. FOLLOW-UP TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was a brief discussion on two recent editorials published in the *MarinScope Newspapers* and *Marin Independent Journal* written by Dick Spotswood and Mike Arnold, respectively, concerning work on the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. Staff noted that the editorials would be responded to starting in September in an effort to educate the public about the draft plan and work of the committees, provide a possible schedule leading to a ballot measure, and encourage public participation in finalizing the draft plan.

Staff also noted that the October workshop with the Joint Committee has been rescheduled tentatively for October 18th. The location and the time have not been determined yet.

6. CONFIRM/SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

The next committee meeting is on Monday, September 15th, at 4:30 p.m. in the Mill Valley Community Center. It was noted that it may be necessary to schedule a second meeting next month in order to hear the last presentation on the Local Return element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan and develop, synthesize, and finalize committee recommendations for all elements.

Vice-Chair Jeffrey adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.